

AREA

FORM NO.

C

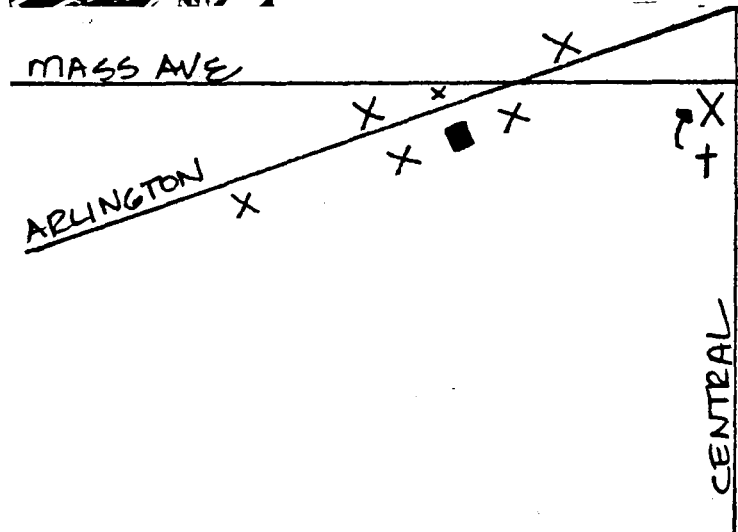
2083

Town ActonAddress 278 Arlington StreetHistoric Name W.E. Mead (1889)Use: Present single family residentialOriginal single family residential

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1885Source maps/visualStyle Shingle StyleArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboards/shinglesOutbuildings barn (see reverse)

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

changed entrance (early 20th c)Condition GoodMoved no Date _____Acreage less than one acreSetting Among a small group of housesbuilt in the latter half of the 19thcentury on a residential street adjacentto West Acton village.Recorded by Schuler and JohnsonOrganization Acton Historical CommissionDate March 1990

UTM REFERENCE _____

"SGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

ACTON

Form No:

C-200

Property Name:

278 Arlington Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

278 ARLINGTON STREET / ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The 2 1/2 story sidehall gable-roof house at 278 Arlington rests on a brick foundation, is sheathed in clapboards and shingles and has an asphalt roof. The house is composed of the sidehall plan main block with a large rear gable-roof addition, built into the side of the hill, a two story side pavillion and a one story shed-roof addition projecting east from the main block. In form, materials and detail the house is a well preserved example of a Shingle Style house influenced by Stick Style design.

The house is clad in clapboards on the first story, and a staggered shingle design on the second. The main (west) facade is two bays wide with a wide raking cornice and a highly decorated gable front. The gable is filled with a mixed sawtooth and staggered shingle pattern punctuated by a window composed of a multi-color lights over a two light lower sash. Diagonal half-timbering overlays the shingles and a lattice pattern truss hangs from the gable peak. On the second story level is a single 2/1 window over the entrance and a paired set over the first floor paneled rectangular bay. The windows are enframed by applied surrounds with slightly projecting molded lintels and adorned with shutters. The hipped roof bay is composed of two 2/1's flanked by 1/1's within a paneled base, frame and frieze. The open porch consists of a chinese chippendale style balustrade, turned columns and pierced brackets. The porch encloses contemporary double entrys marked by a filled transom overhead.

The south facade of the main block consists of a projecting infill shed roof addition on the first story and a single 2/1 window on the second. Behind this is a two story projecting gable, its gable end decorated with sawtooth shingles and lattice trusswork in the peak. The pavillion has a 2/1 window on each side at the second floor level and one paired window visible on the first story. Two 2/1s are visible on the first story of the rear addition and one on the second story. The north facade consists of a 2/1 window on the first and second stories then paired second story windows above a paneled rectangular bay on the first level.

A large gable-roof barn, converted to a three car garage, is situated in the southwest corner of the property. The clapboard and shingle clad barn is composed of a large scale version of the gable front on the main house. Paired 2/2 windows and a hay door punctuate a shingled and half-timbered facade with a lattice truss in the gable peak. A hipped roof cupola rises from the roof ridge.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: C-208
Property Name: 278 Arlington Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

278 ARLINGTON STREET / HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

This house was built circa 1885 (Walker/architectural evidence) most likely by "W.E. Mead" listed as its owner in 1889. This was possibly Walter Mead (1832-1910), son of Oliver and Betsy Mead of Boxborough, and brother of Lyman Mead (1825-1904) who lived at 207 Central. This large house, like the one next door, typifies the character of residential development around the edges of West Acton village in the late 19th century.

Known historically as the "Thomas Farr Road to Meeting" or the "Road to Stow," then later "Wheeler Street" (1883), Arlington Street was first laid out in 1735. This section of Arlington, just southwest of Massachusetts Avenue, had only the Davis House (see 285 Arlington) before the 1845 arrival of the railroad spurred West Acton's growth. Residential development around the edges of the village paralleled the expansion of West Acton's apple business and manufacturies. During the latter half of the century local industries included a cigar factory, cider mills, a wooden ware factory, produce marketing and other enterprises.

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